



**REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE**

**11th MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE  
ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION**

**Article 5 - Mine Clearance  
Statement by Mr. Elias Jaime Zimba,  
Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of  
Mozambique to the United Nations in Geneva**

Phnom Penh, 29<sup>th</sup> November 2011

Mr. President,

Mrs. Co-Chairs,

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

The deputy Ministry of Foreigner Affairs and Cooperation of Mozambique had the opportunity to congratulate you upon your assumption of the presidency of 11 MSP.

On behalf of the Government of Mozambique I would like to briefly present the progress achieved in the implementation of the National Mine Action program in accordance with article 5 of the Mine Ban Convention.

The government of Mozambique has now entered the half-way mark in its 5 year extension under Article 5. We remain committed to clearing all known mined area within the deadline, in 2014. In order to do so in the most efficient manner, we have integrated additional mechanical demining capacity and land release procedures into our demining operations. In addition, the Mine-Free District process is ensuring that we are being as thorough as possible in order to identify all known mined areas.

Mr. President,

I would like to summarize the results achieved so far under these strategic approaches to mine action:

First, out of the original 541 suspected mined areas, reported in the 2008 baseline survey, we have completed 371 by the end of October 2011. In other words, 70% of the original tasks, totaling more than 8.7 million square meters of mine suspected land have been cleared.

As envisioned in the extension request, 8 areas were identified for additional survey tasks around economic infrastructure of national impact. I am happy to report that these additional surveys around the Cahora Bassa Dam, Chicamba Dam, Limpopo Railways, Beira-Machipanda Railways, Maputo-Komatiport Powerlines, and the Mozambique-Zimbabwe Border have already been completed. On the other hand, the surveys around Beira I and Beira II Powerlines are still ongoing.

Through these additional surveys and the Mine Free District process, we identified new suspected areas, out of which a total of 294, equivalent to more than 8.4 million square meters, have already been cleared and released back to local communities.

These areas were not foreseen in the 2008 baseline survey.

Taken together the baseline and new mine suspected areas results for the period between 2008 and October 2011, we managed to clear and release a total of 665 mine suspected areas, equivalent to more than 17 million square meters.

As of today, after undergoing thorough assessment, we decided to declare 86 out of the 128 districts of Mozambique as mine-free. In this context, 9.5 million Mozambican citizens, of which 60% are women, youth and children of school age, can once again circulate freely and in security.

I am also happy to announce a significant reduction in the number of new landmine victims in comparison to last year. Between January and October 2011, we have recorded a total of 3 accidents involving landmines and other explosive devices that resulted in the deaths of 2 men and 1 woman and injuries to an additional 6 people including two women and one child. This, it also includes one male deminer who was killed during demining operations.

Mr. President,

While we have achieved much in the past three years, we still face a challenge to clear the remaining 235 suspected mined areas totaling more than 8.7 million square meters, thus achieving mine-free status in the remaining 42 districts suspected of mine contamination.

Included in the remaining tasks are more than 4.7 million square meters that were not included in the 2008 baseline survey. Almost 35% of these remaining areas are along our common border with Zimbabwe. These areas endanger the citizens of both our countries, which requires us to work together to jointly address the problem. This year we have started work with our neighbor in Zimbabwe that we hope will lead to the simultaneous demining of our common border.

Mr. President,

I would like to seize this opportunity to welcome South Sudan and Tuvalu as the newest states part members of the Ottawa Convention on Demining.

In conclusion, let me reiterate my Government's commitment to do its utmost with a view to accomplish the clearance of all mined areas and comply with obligation within the deadline.

-Check against delivery-

MUITO OBRIGADO!

Phnom Penh, 29 November 2011